

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IATF:WGMETSON,JR./AF/C:JSBLODGETT:DJB

APPROVED BY IATF: JVTAF

AF/I:JWHITING

AF/C:WCUTLER

ORM:JLCARLIN

IATF:JBROH KAHN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

CG CAMP PENDLETON PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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CG FORT CHAFFEE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SREF, GB

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN GABON

FOR SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 1314 (B) LIBREVILLE 1357

(C) LIBREVILLE 1423 (D) CAMP PENDLETON 1084

(E) LIBREVILLE 1532

1. REFTELS AND PREVIOUS HAVE RAISED A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE KINDS OF REFUGEE PROGRAMS MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED IN GABON, AND WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE IMPLEMENTED. IN VIEW OF TIME RESTRAINT (TASK FORCE WILL BE DISSOLVED BY END OF CALENDAR YEAR), IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO MOVE FORWARD WITH
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PROGRAM SHOWING BEST PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS IN SHORT TERM.

MOST PROMISING IDEA, AND ONE MOST ACCEPTABLE TO GOG, APPEARS TO BE RESETTLEMENT OF FISHING VILLAGE, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON THAT.

2. INTEND TO PROCEED AS SUGGESTED REF (C). CAMP PENDLETON SHOULD PREPARE LIST OF 150-200 INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING DEPENDENTS, DEEMED MOST SUITABLE FOR FISHING VILLAGE. LIST WILL OF COURSE INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN FISHERMEN, WHOSE SKILLS WOULD BE NEEDED IN CONTEXT OF NEW VILLAGE SET UP FROM SCRATCH. AS SUGGESTED REF (C), GOOD HEALTH, YOUTH, FRENCH LANGUAGE ABILITY, AND SELF-RELIANCE WILL BE KEY CRITERIA IN SELECTION OF CANDIDATES.

3. LIST SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO EMBASSY LIBREVILLE ALONG WITH CURRICULUM VITAE ON EACH INDIVIDUAL (TO INCLUDE AGE, LANGUAGE ABILITY, FAMILY SIZE, AND SKILLS) FOR PRESENTATION TO GOG. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO CANDIDATES THAT PROPOSED MIGRATION IS SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF GOG AND THAT VILLAGE MAY BE REDUCED IN SIZE OR DISAPPROVED ALTOGETHER.

4. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GOG HOW WE INTEND . TO PROCEED AND CONFIRM GOG'S FAVORABLE DISPOSITION TOWARDS IDEA. NOW IS ALSO TIME TO FOCUS ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS PROPOSED LOCATION OF VILLAGE, TYPE OF FISHING AVAILABLE, MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS, WHETHER STORAGE FACILITIES AVAILABLE, AVAILABILITY OF ADJACENT AGRICULTURAL LAND, HOUSING, TRAINING, ETC. BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO STIMULATE GOG THINKING ALONG THESE LINES AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF GOG CONCEPT AS IT DEVELOPS.

5. MUST ALSO FACE UP TO PROBLEM OF REFUGEES' STATUS IN GABON. PRESUME THEY WOULD ENTER AS ALIEN RESIDENTS WITH EVENTUAL POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING GABONESE CITIZENSHIP. SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO GOG THAT IF PROJECT RUNS INTO PROBLEMS U.S. NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO REACCEPT REFUGEES, EXCEPT THROUGH NORMAL IMMIGRANT CHANNELS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION OF EXTENT OF SUPPORT GOG MAY BE WILLING TO PROVIDE BEYOND MAKING LAND AVAILABLE. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES SUCH SUPPORT MAY BE VERY LIMITED AND IS EXPLORING WAYS IN WHICH USG MIGHT CONTRIBUTE ONE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME SUPPORT DURING FIRST FEW MONTHS OF RESETTLEMENT, FOR SUCH REQUIREMENTS AS TRANSPORT TO GABON, HOUSING, INITIAL PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS, ETC. ONE POSSIBILITY BEING CONSIDERED WOULD BE TO CHANNEL FUNDS THROUGH A VOLUNTARY AGENCY WHICH COULD ASSIGN ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL TO GABON ON A SHORT TERM BASIS. IF DIFFICULTIES ARISE REFUGEES COULD TURN TO VOLUNTARY AGENCY. CURRENT THINKING IS THAT USG MIGHT CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$1,000 PER

REFUGEE FOR BOTH TRANSPORTATION FROM U.S. AND RESETTLEMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING GOG REACTION TO IDEA LONG THESE LINES.

7. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOG, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND TIME RESTRAINTS UNDER WHICH WE ARE OPERATING. REFUGEES HAVE BEEN LINGERING IN CAMPS FOR MONTHS AND ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE INTEREST AND HOPE. TASK FORCE DUE TO BE DISSOLVED BY END OF CALENDAR YEAR AND, WHILE FULLY UNDERSTAND DELAYS TO BE EXPECTED FROM GOG, WOULD HOPE AT LEAST TO HAVE REFUGEES EVACUATED BY THAT TIME. KISSINGER

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